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CAPCOM

TIME KEEPS SLIPPING

PART 1 OF 4

MEGA MAN™

VILLAIN
VARIANT:



TIME MAN



OUT OF TIME

DIRECT EDITION

00512>



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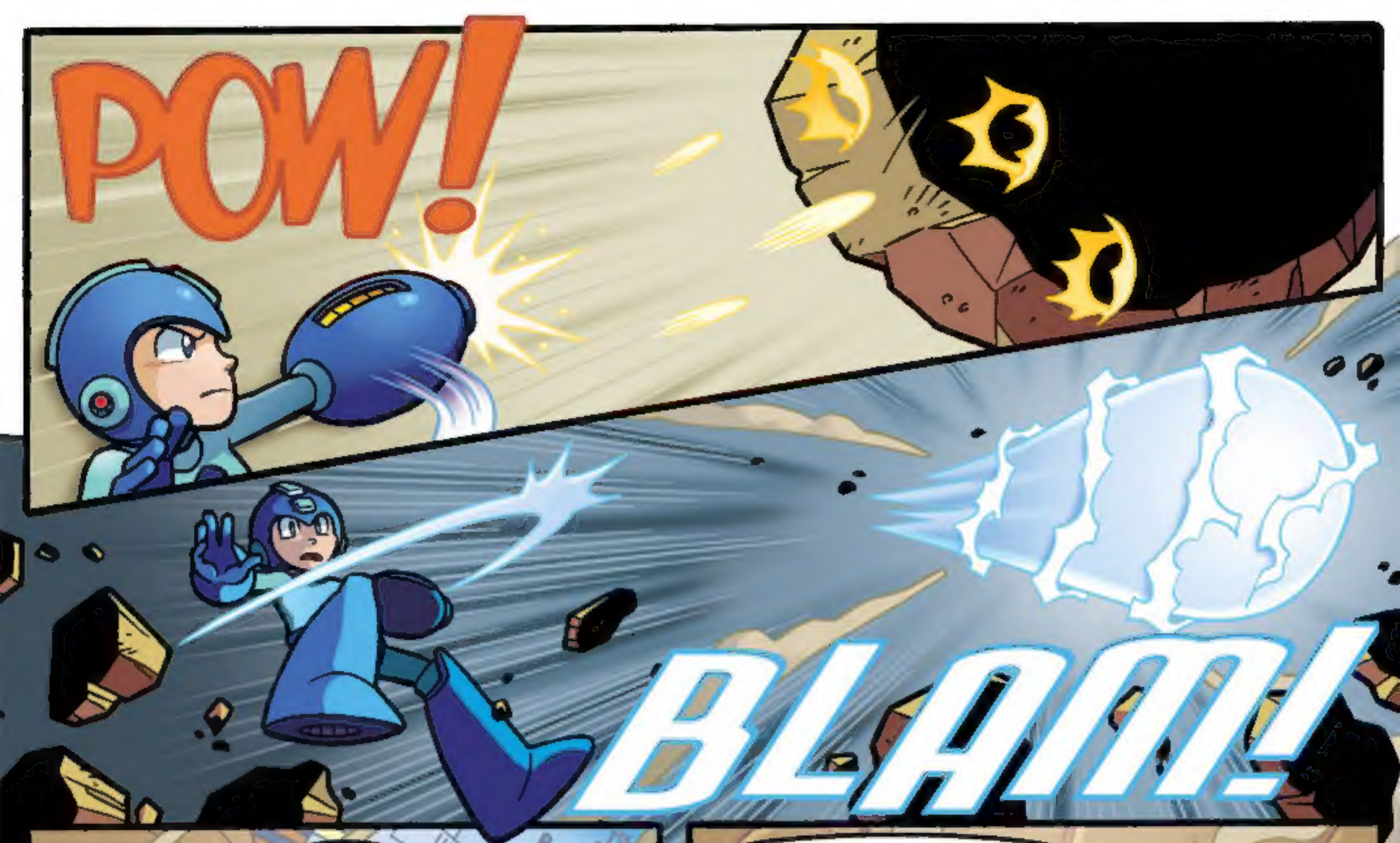
A full-page comic book illustration. Mega Man, in his signature blue armor, is shown from the waist up, looking upwards with a surprised expression. He is positioned in the lower-left foreground. The background is a rocky, brown canyon with a city skyline visible in the distance. A large, dark, jagged rock formation is on the right. A speech bubble from Mega Man says "WHOA!". A small pipe in the rock above him is leaking blue liquid. The scene is dynamic, with motion lines and a sense of falling or slipping.

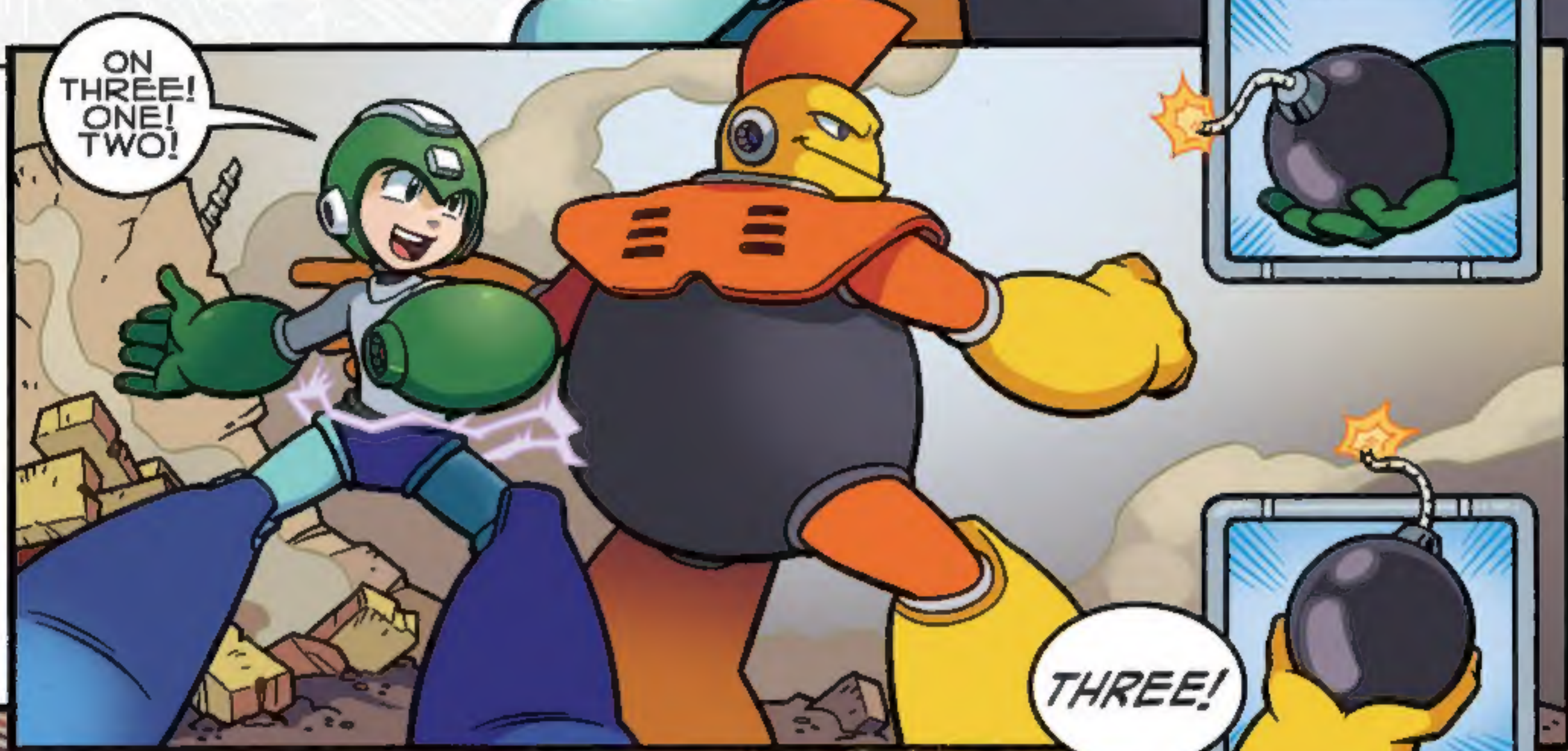
WHOA!

TIME KEEPS ON SLIPPING

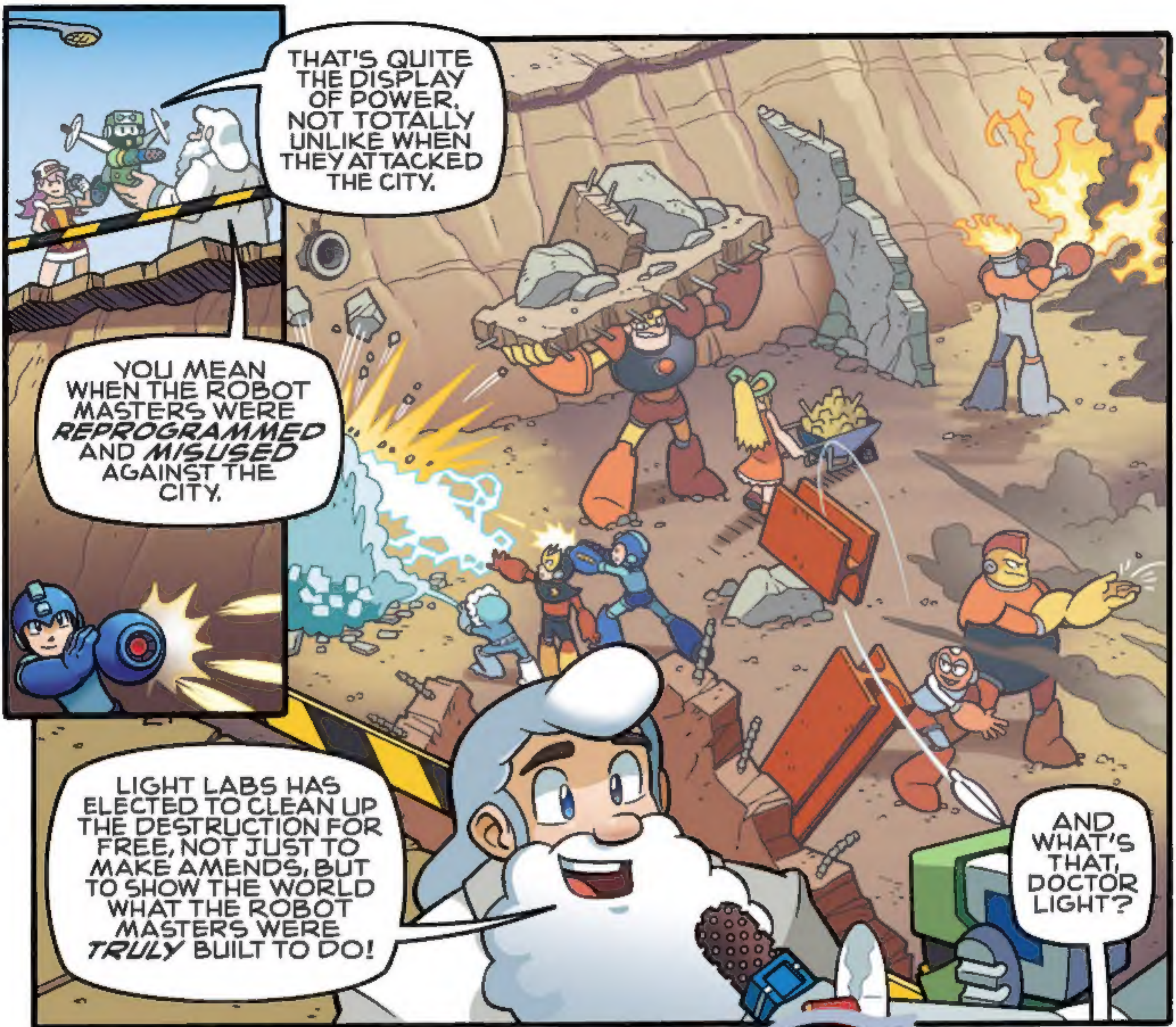
PART ONE: REASONABLE DOUBT

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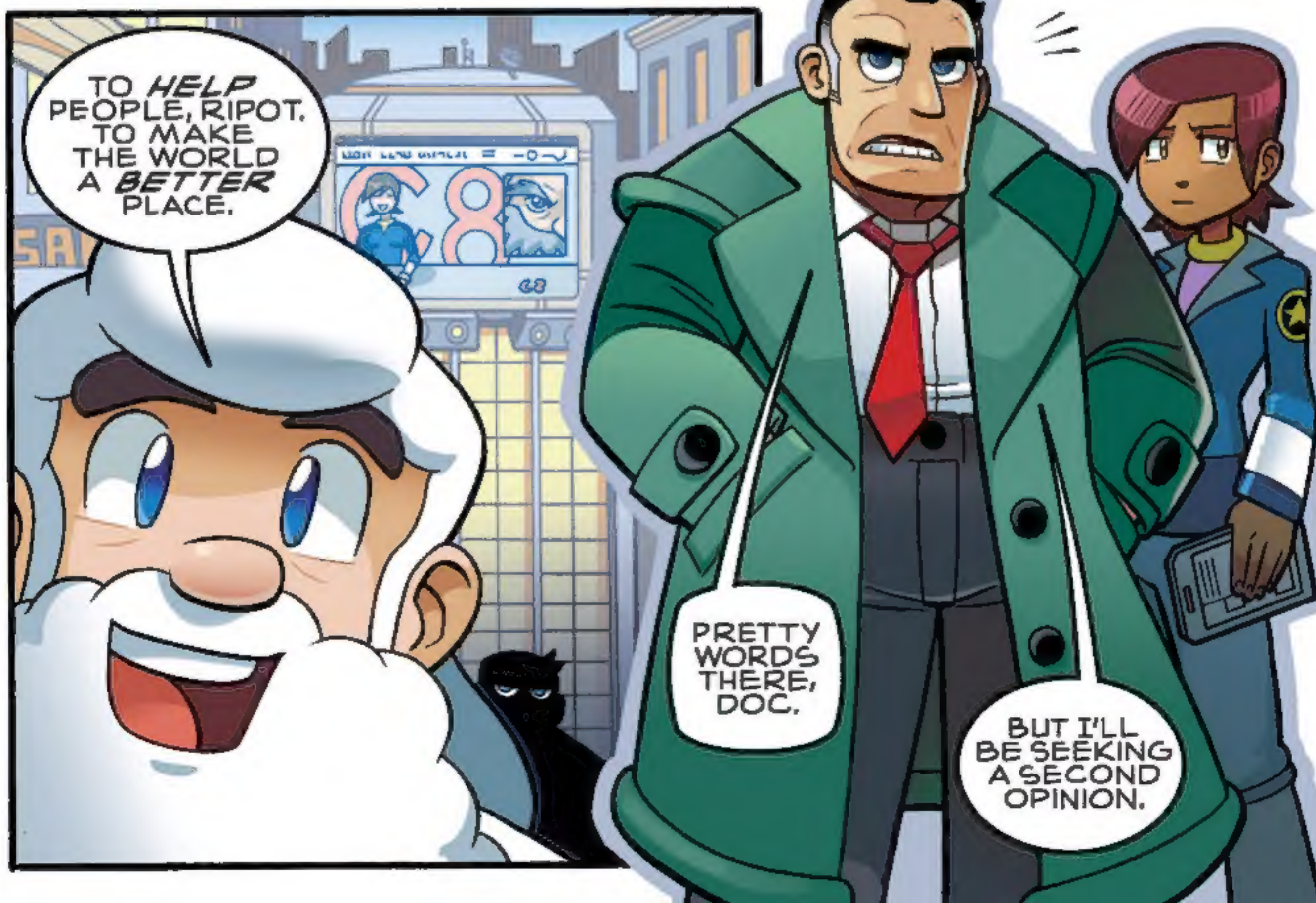


THAT'S QUITE THE DISPLAY OF POWER, NOT TOTALLY UNLIKE WHEN THEY ATTACKED THE CITY.

YOU MEAN WHEN THE ROBOT MASTERS WERE **REPROGRAMMED** AND **MISUSED** AGAINST THE CITY.

AND WHAT'S THAT, DOCTOR LIGHT?

LIGHT LABS HAS ELECTED TO CLEAN UP THE DESTRUCTION FOR FREE, NOT JUST TO MAKE AMENDS, BUT TO SHOW THE WORLD WHAT THE ROBOT MASTERS WERE **TRULY** BUILT TO DO!



TO **HELP** PEOPLE, RIPOOT. TO MAKE THE WORLD A **BETTER** PLACE.

PRETTY WORDS THERE, DOC.

BUT I'LL BE SEEKING A SECOND OPINION.

CAN I HELP YOU, MISTER?

FEDERAL AGENT GILBERT D. STERN.

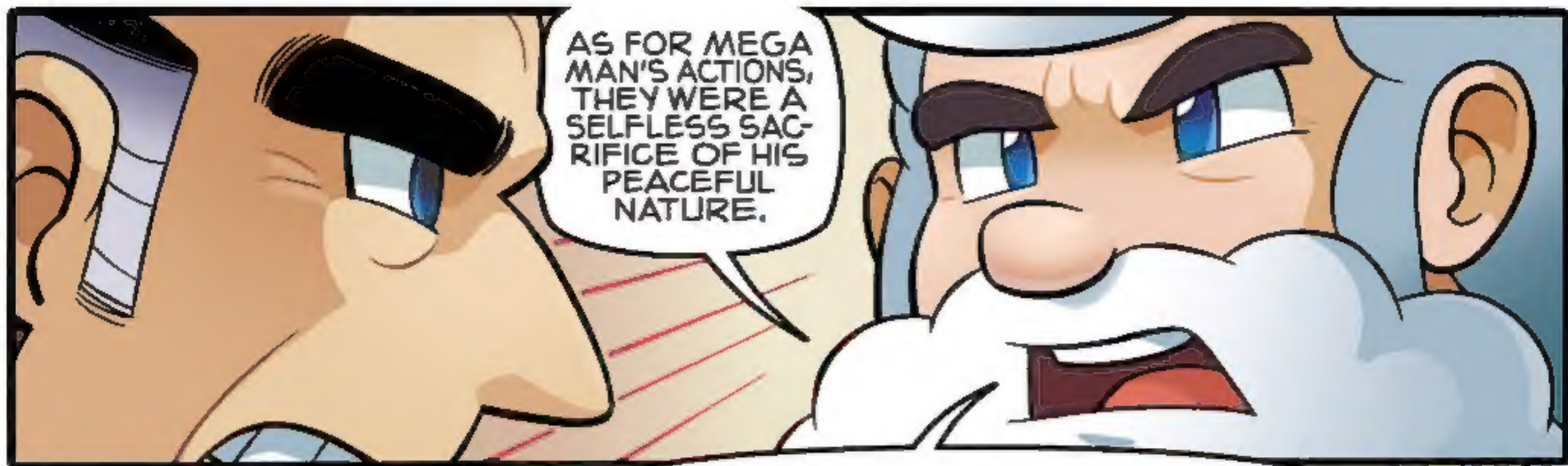
FEDERAL AGENT ROSLYN KRANTZ. WE NEED TO SPEAK WITH DR. LIGHT, PLEASE.

OF COURSE! I'VE BEEN AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE WITH ALL OF THE AUTHORITIES SINCE THE INCIDENT.

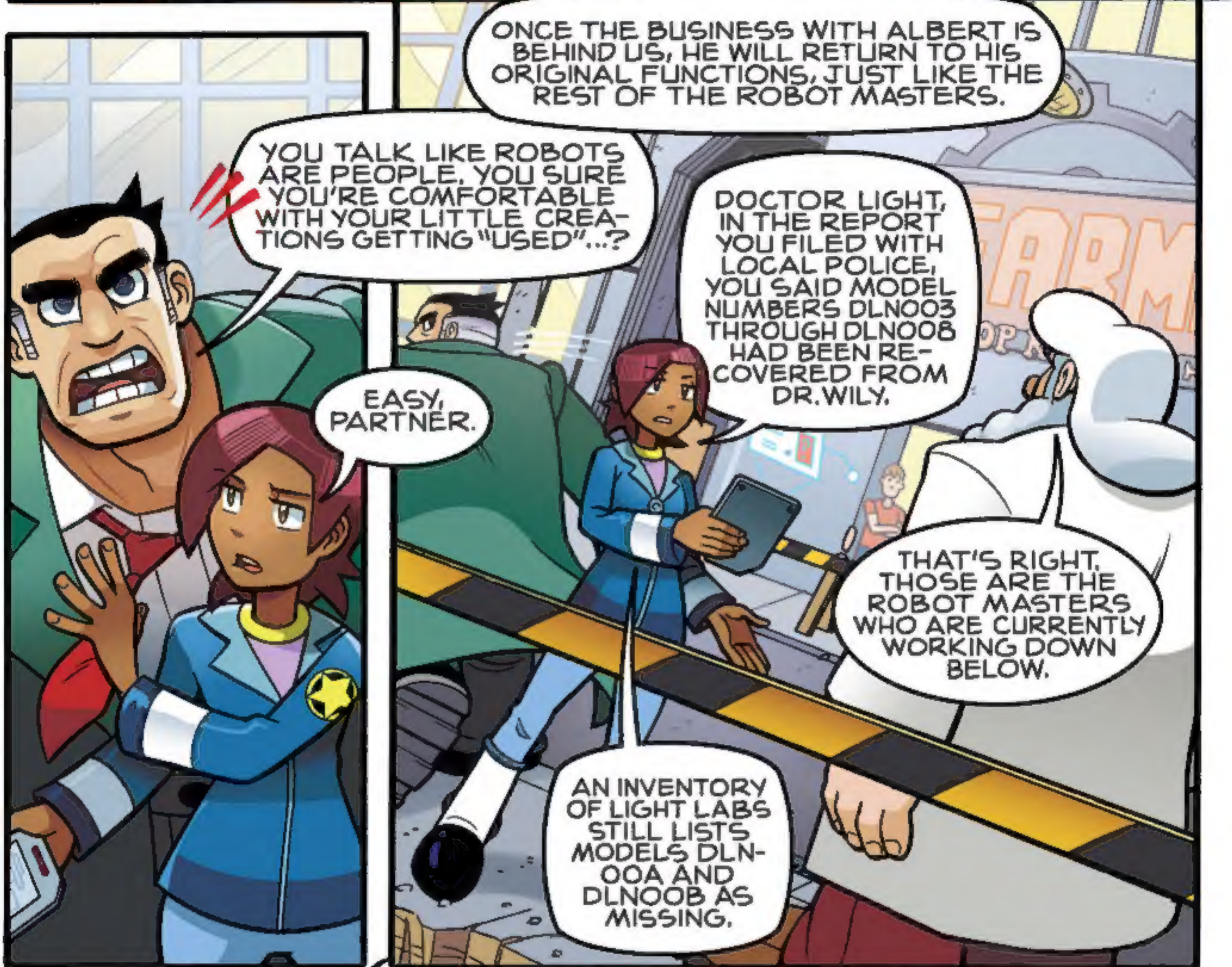
YEAH, YOU'VE BEEN REAL CUDDLY WITH THE LOCAL BRASS, ALMOST LIKE YOU GOT A GUILTY CONSCIENCE OR SOMETHIN'. I THINK IT'S KINDA *FUNNY* HOW YOUR OLD BUDDY WILY JUST *HAPPENS* TO STEAL THE ROBOTS HE HELPED YOU BUILD *RIGHT* AFTER YOU SHOW 'EM OFF... AND *YOU* JUST *HAPPEN* TO HAVE THE *ONE* ROBOT THAT CAN STOP HIM.

LOTS A RAZZLE-DAZZLE AND COINCIDENCE. CARE TO SPEAK ON ALL DAT?

I BELIEVE EVERYONE DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE, EVEN ALBERT. HIS CHOICE TO SQUANDER THAT, AS UNFORTUNATE AS IT WAS, WAS HIS OWN.



AS FOR MEGA MAN'S ACTIONS, THEY WERE A SELFLESS SACRIFICE OF HIS PEACEFUL NATURE.



ONCE THE BUSINESS WITH ALBERT IS BEHIND US, HE WILL RETURN TO HIS ORIGINAL FUNCTIONS, JUST LIKE THE REST OF THE ROBOT MASTERS.

YOU TALK LIKE ROBOTS ARE PEOPLE. YOU SURE YOU'RE COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR LITTLE CREATIONS GETTING "USED"...?

EASY, PARTNER.

DOCTOR LIGHT, IN THE REPORT YOU FILED WITH LOCAL POLICE, YOU SAID MODEL NUMBERS DLN003 THROUGH DLN008 HAD BEEN RECOVERED FROM DR. WILY.

THAT'S RIGHT, THOSE ARE THE ROBOT MASTERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY WORKING DOWN BELOW.

AN INVENTORY OF LIGHT LABS STILL LISTS MODELS DLN-00A AND DLN00B AS MISSING.



AH, YES!

THOSE TWO WERE STILL IN THE EXPERIMENTAL STAGES BY THE TIME OF THE UNVEILING, AND HAD BEEN LEFT IN ALBERT'S CARE. I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.

"...AND I DOUBT
ALBERT IS BEING
COOPERATIVE."

COUNTY
JAIL

GOOD,
YOUR BEING
HERE MEANS
EVERYTHING
IS GOING
ACCORDING
TO PLAN,

TELL HIM
I'LL BE MOVED
AT 2:00PM
PRECISELY, AND
THAT I'M MAKING
ONE SMALL
ADJUSTMENT TO
THE PLAN.

"WE'LL NEED A
DIVERSION!"

I'M HOPING I CAN APPEAL
TO HIM ONE LAST TIME
WHEN MEGA MAN AND I
JOIN THE ESCORT CONVOY.
SADLY, I DOUBT HE'LL
LISTEN TO ME.

YEAH, YEAH, I WEEP
FOR YA, BUT IF YOU
TWO *WERE* IN CA-
HOOTS, YOU CAN
HAVE A
PERMANENT
SLEEP-OVER
IN FEDERAL
PRISON.

YOU'RE A BETTER
FRIEND THAN THAT
CREEP DESERVES,
DOCTOR.

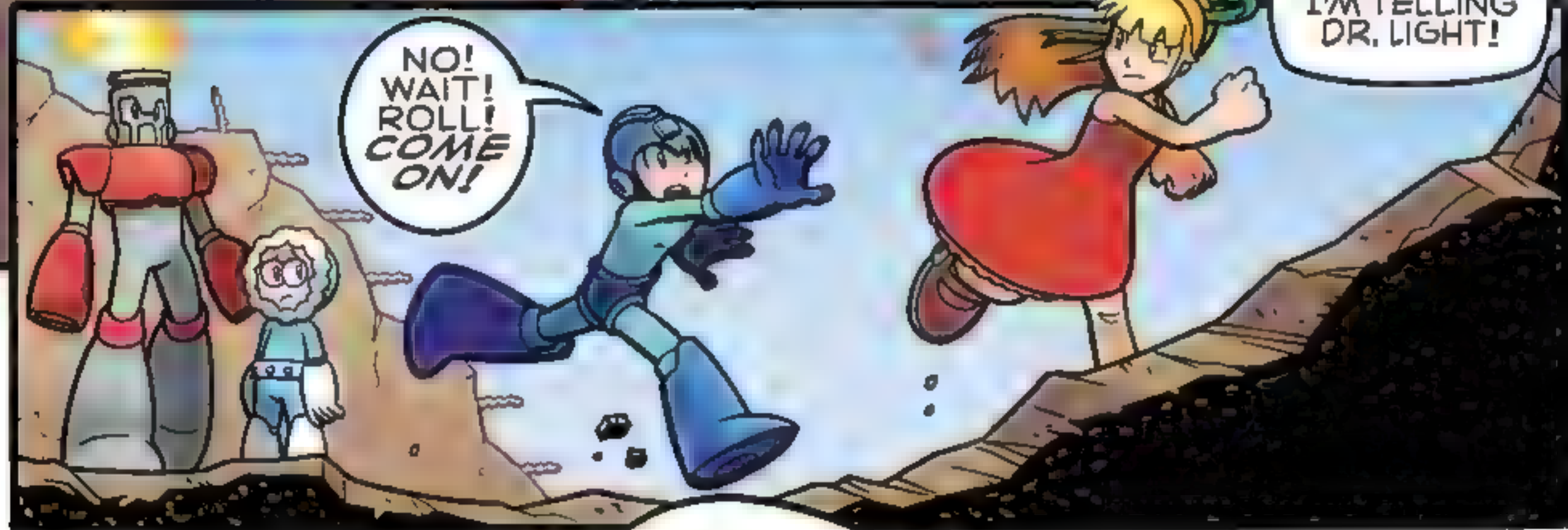
I ASSURE YOU,
AGENT STERN,
I AM A MAN
OF *PEACE*
AND A CREATOR
OF TRANQUILITY.

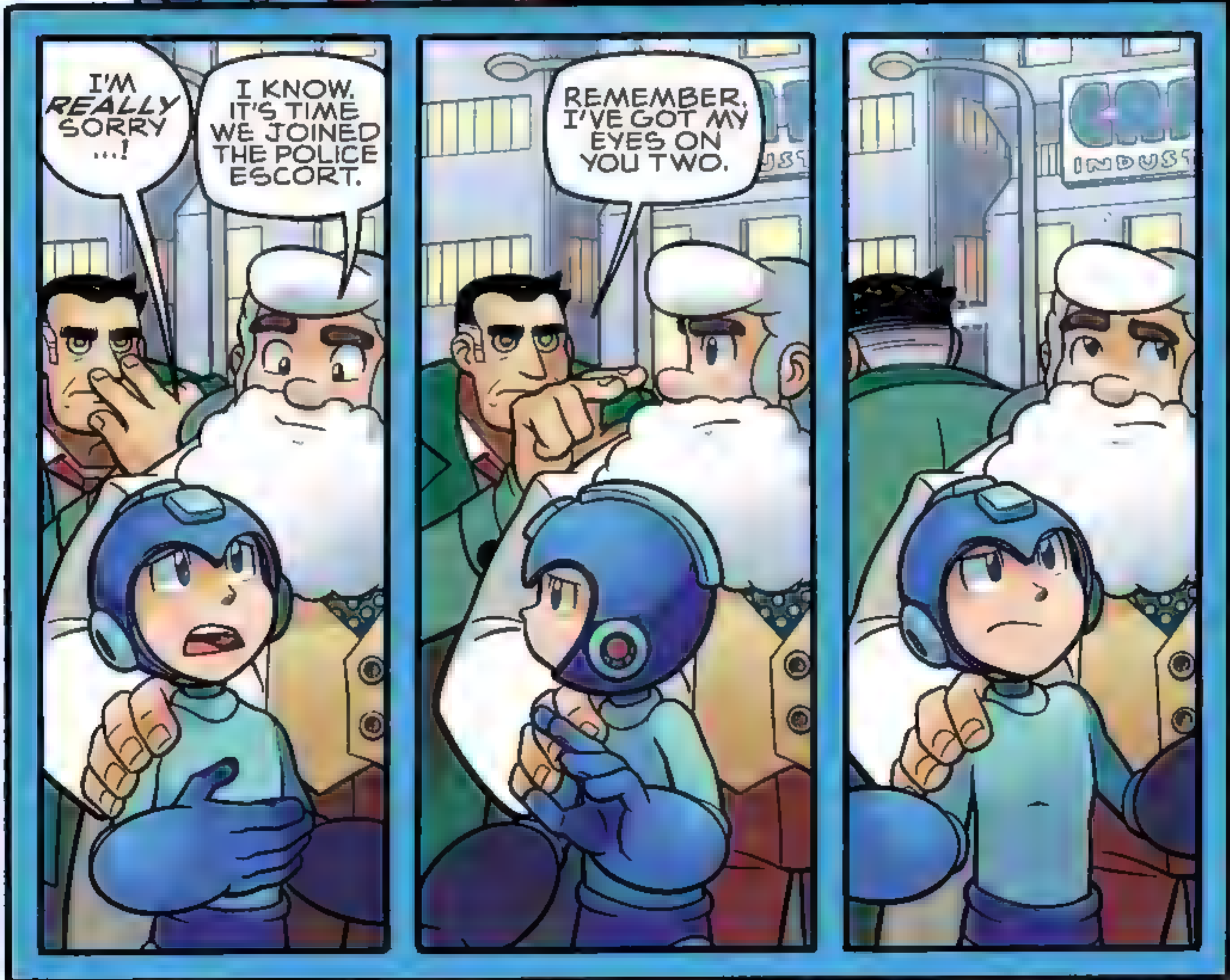
FWOOSH!

**AAAAA
AAAAAH!**

KABOOM!

ROCK LIGHT!
I'LL TEAR
YOU DOWN
TO YOUR
SERVOS!





AND
SO...

SO AFTER
WE HELP MOVE
DR. WILY FROM
THIS PRISON TO
THE FEDERAL
FACILITY, I CAN
GO BACK TO BE-
ING ROCK?

THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'VE DONE
MORE THAN
ENOUGH AS
MEGA MAN.

SO... WHY
ARE WE TAKING
DR. WILY TO THE
NEW PRISON?
WHAT'LL HAPPEN
TO HIM?

LIKE THE
PARAMETERS
OF YOUR CODING,
HUMANS HAVE
RULES TO HELP
MAKE THEIR
SOCIETY FUNCTION.
WHEN YOU BREAK
THE BIG RULES, YOU
ARE PUT IN PRISON.
IN ALBERT'S CASE,
HE'LL BE HELD
THERE FOR A
LONG TIME.

OH!
SO IT'S A
PLACE FOR
LOCALIZED
ERRORS!

WELL
...SOMETHING
LIKE THAT,
YES.

DO THE PEOPLE
IN PRISON GET
REPROGRAMMED
SO THEY'RE SAFE
AGAIN?

SOME CAN BE
REHABILITATED,
BUT YOU CAN'T
SIMPLY REPRO-
GRAM PEOPLE.

OH,
THAT'S
TOO
BAD.



QUITE THE OPPOSITE. OUR FREE WILL ALLOWS US TO DREAM, TO INNOVATE, AND TO ASPIRE TO CREATE THINGS GREATER THAN OUR INDIVIDUAL SELVES, IT'S A FREEDOM UNLIKE ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD.



I...AND THE ROBOT MASTERS... CAN MAKE CHOICES, DOES THAT MEAN WE HAVE FREE WILL LIKE HUMANS?



I'M AFRAID NOT, MY BOY.

OH...



YOU'RE ALL AUTONOMOUS AND CAPABLE OF A WIDE RANGE OF HUMAN-LIKE EMOTIONS AND DECISION-MAKING ABILITIES, BUT YOU'RE ALL STILL RULED BY YOUR CODING.

ONE DAY, THOUGH, I HOPE TO CAPTURE THAT **X-FACTOR** AND BUILD A ROBOT WITH A TRUE FREE WILL OF ITS OWN...



HERE
WE
ARE.



..WILL BE TAKING
YOU INTO FEDERAL
CUSTODY. YOU WILL
BE TRANSFERRED TO
A FEDERAL PENAL
FACILITY WHERE
YOU WILL AWAIT
TRIAL FOR YOUR
CRIMES. DO YOU
UNDERSTAND?

FINE.
WHAT-
EVER.

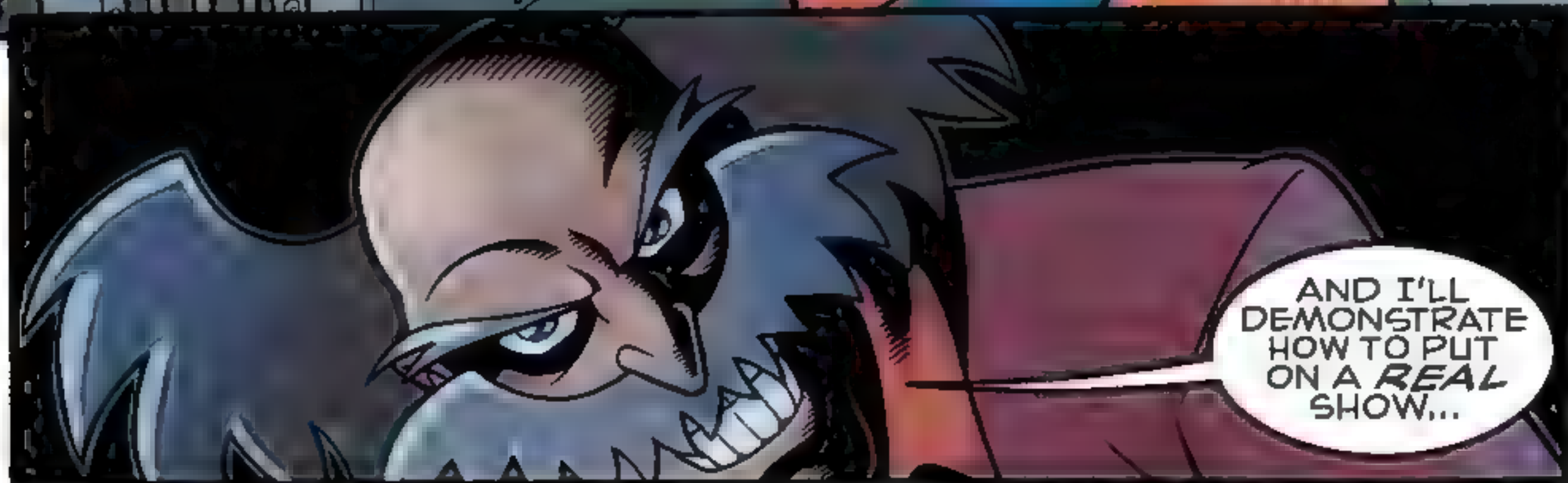


AH! THOMAS!
 AND YOUR LITTLE
 HELPER ROBOT,
 THEY'RE REALLY
 PUTTING ON
 QUITE THE
 SHOW TODAY!

MAKE THIS
EASY ON YOURSELF,
ALBERT. PLEASE
COOPERATE WITH
THE AUTHORITIES.



THE ONLY
AUTHORITY
I CARE ABOUT
IS *MY OWN!*

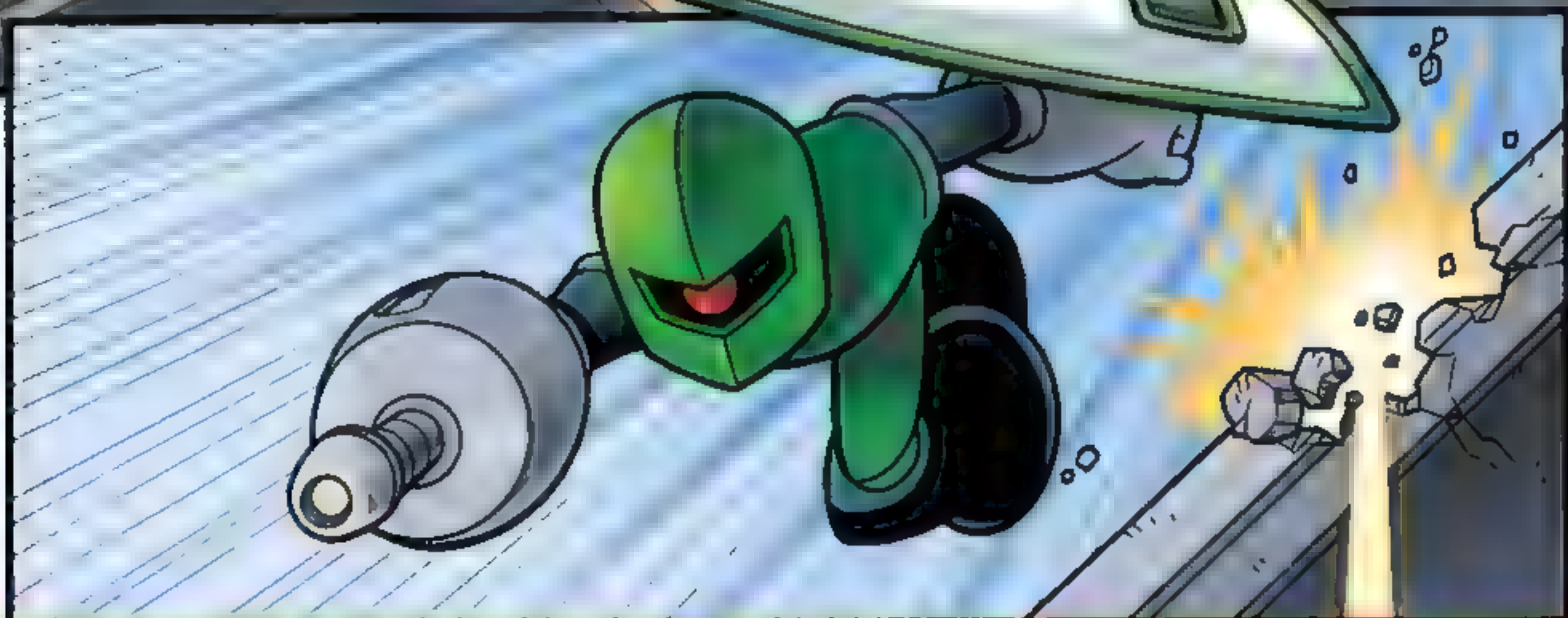


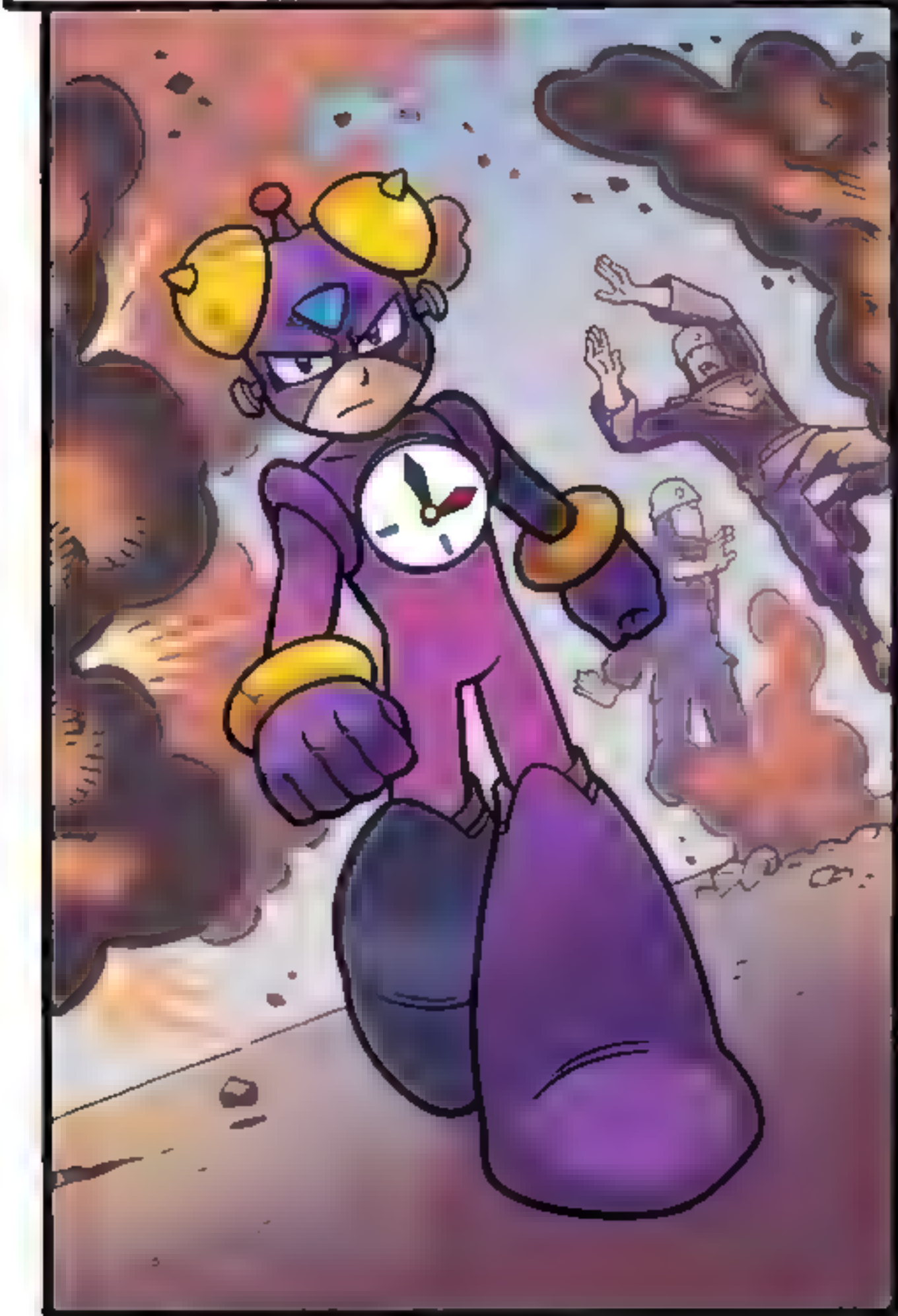
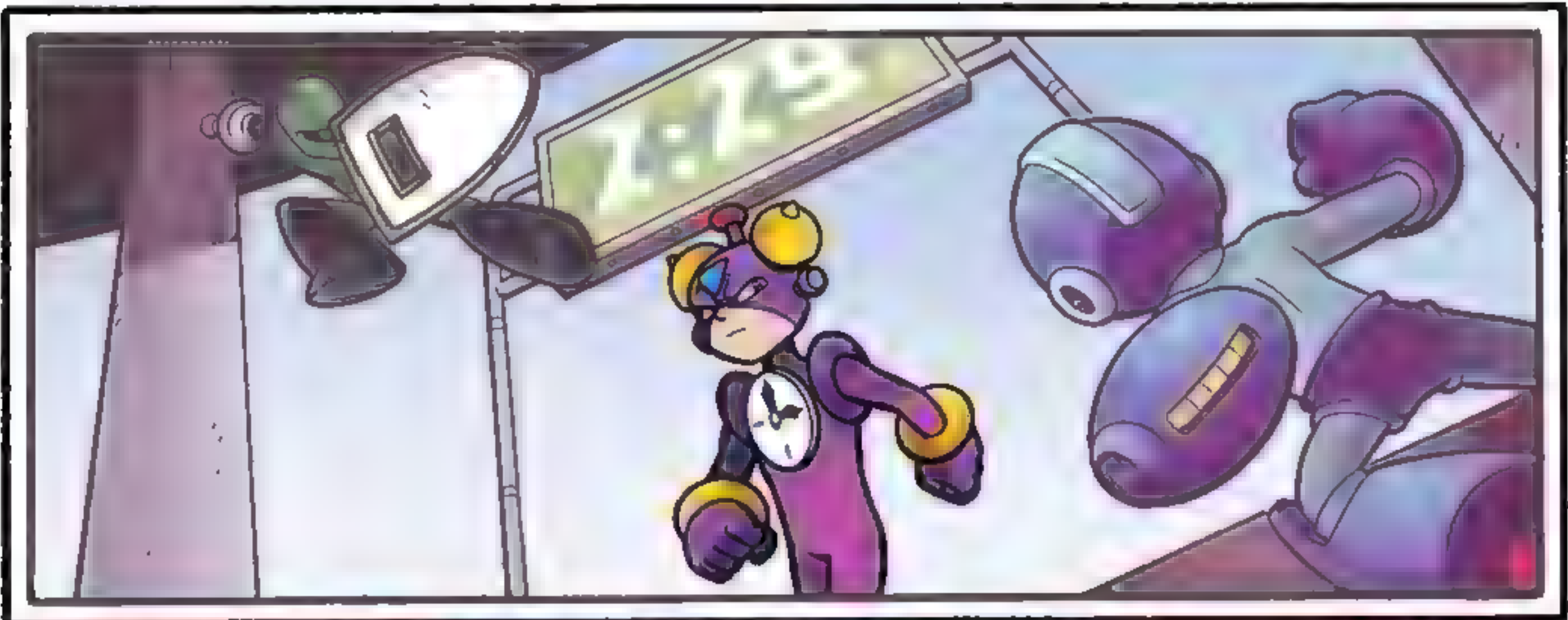
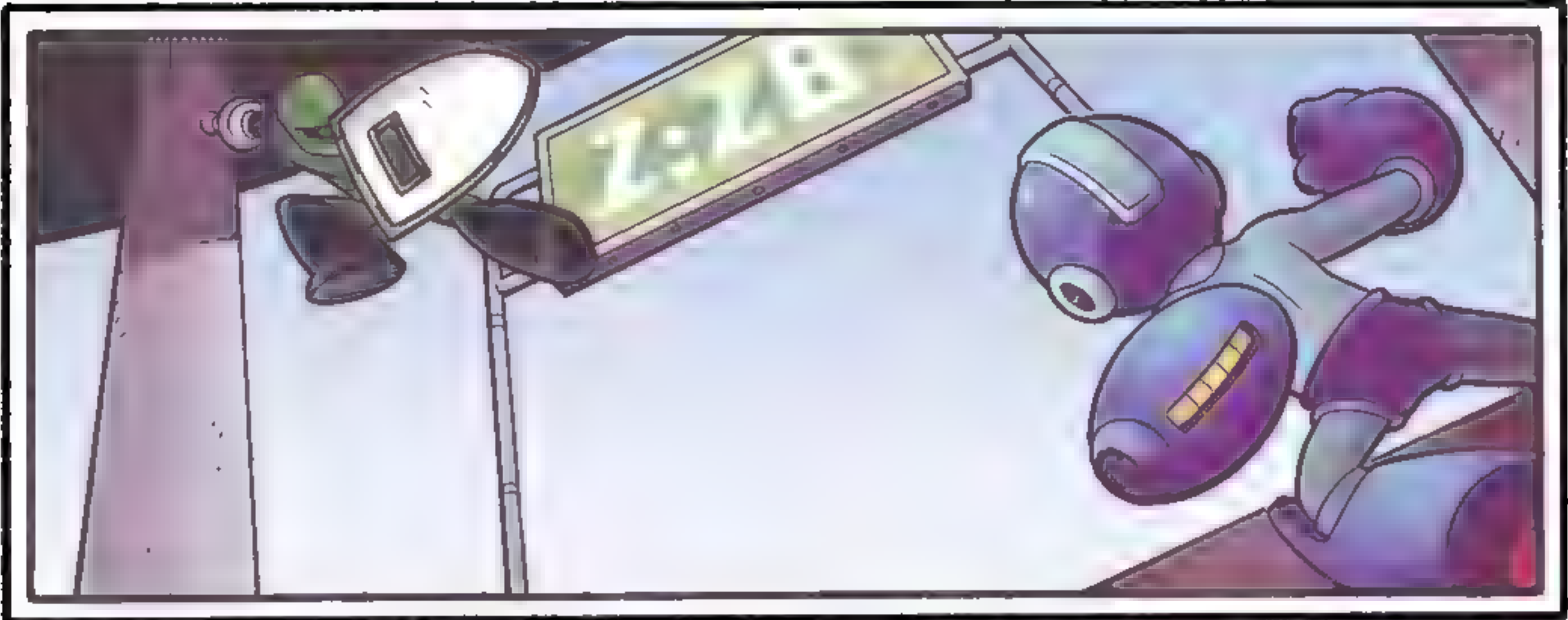
AND I'LL
DEMONSTRATE
HOW TO PUT
ON A *REAL*
SHOW...

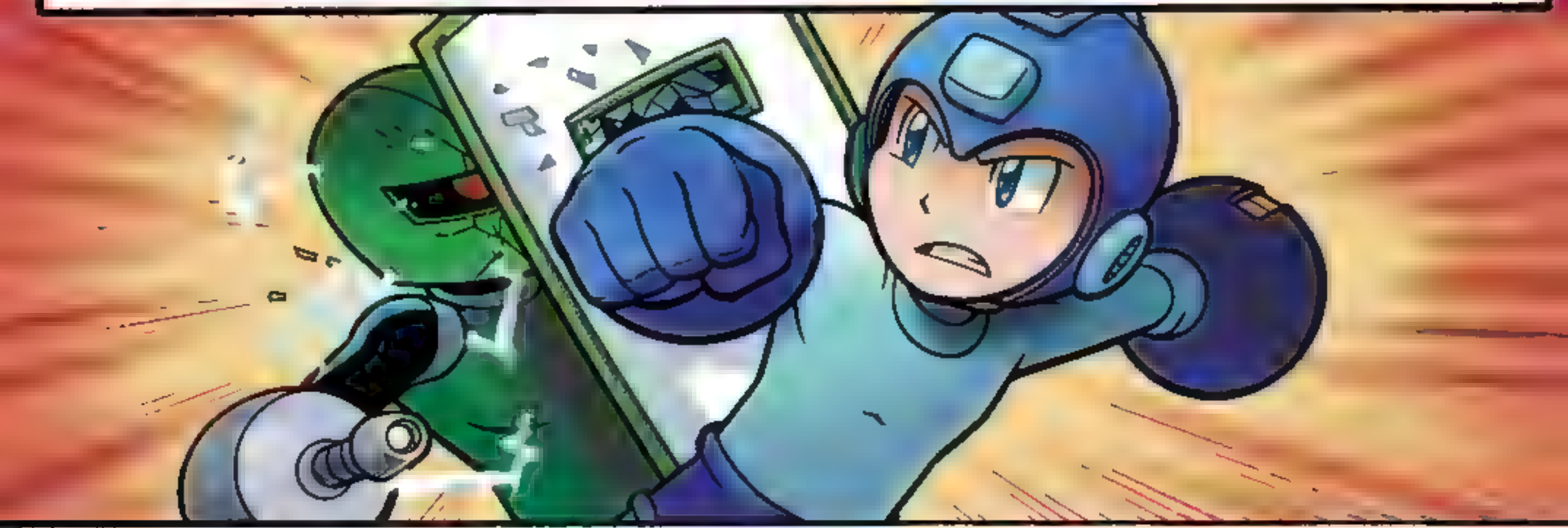
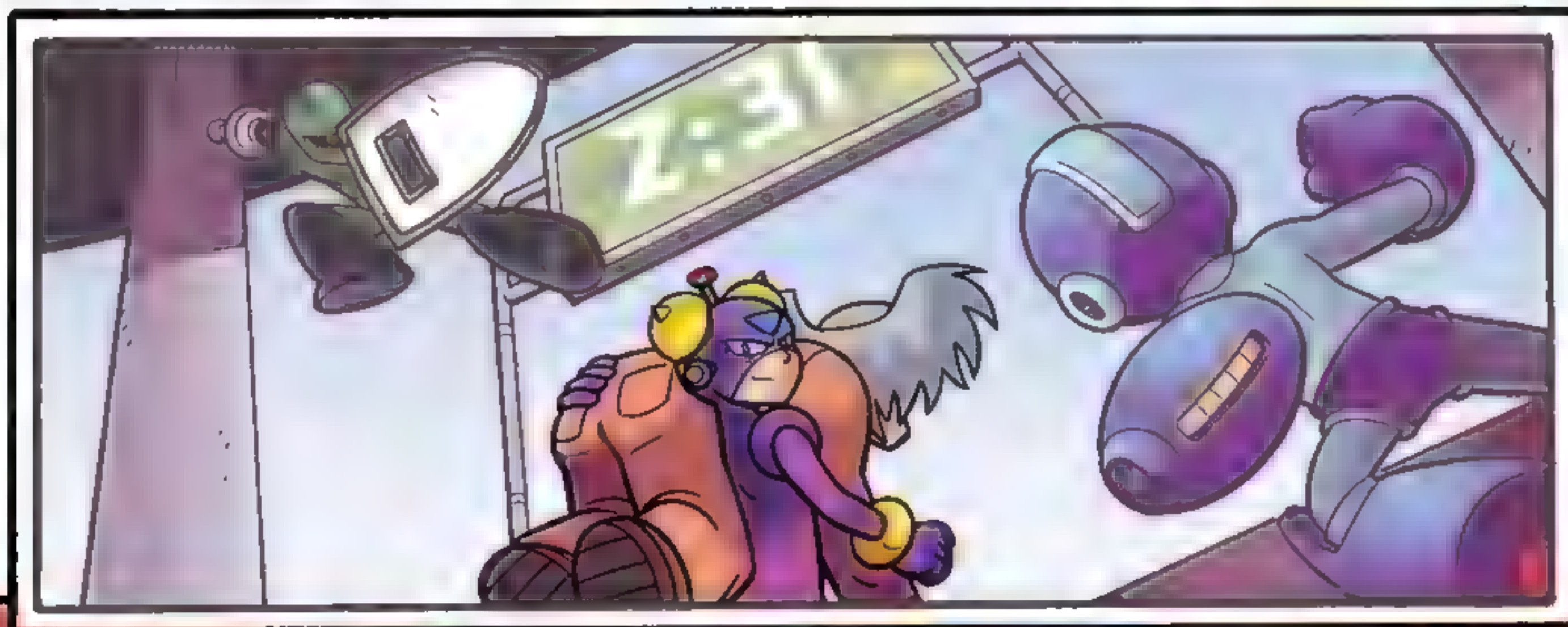
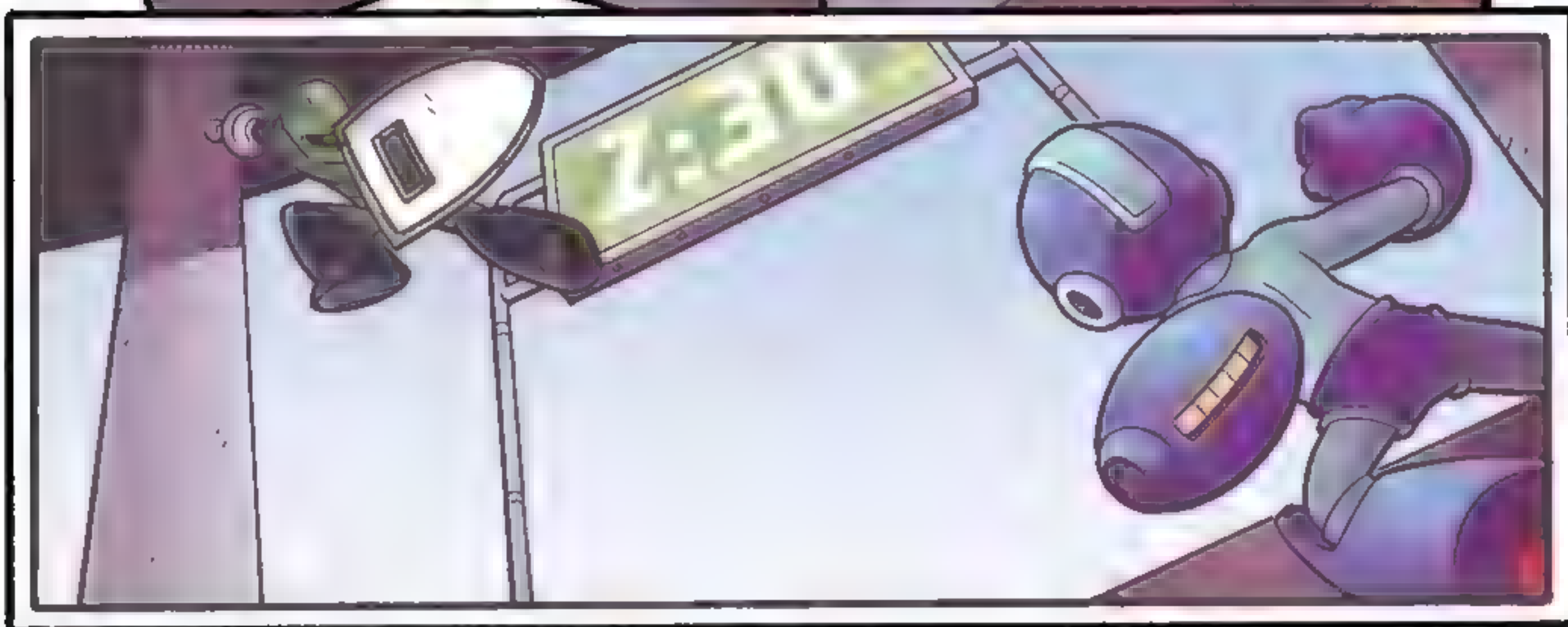
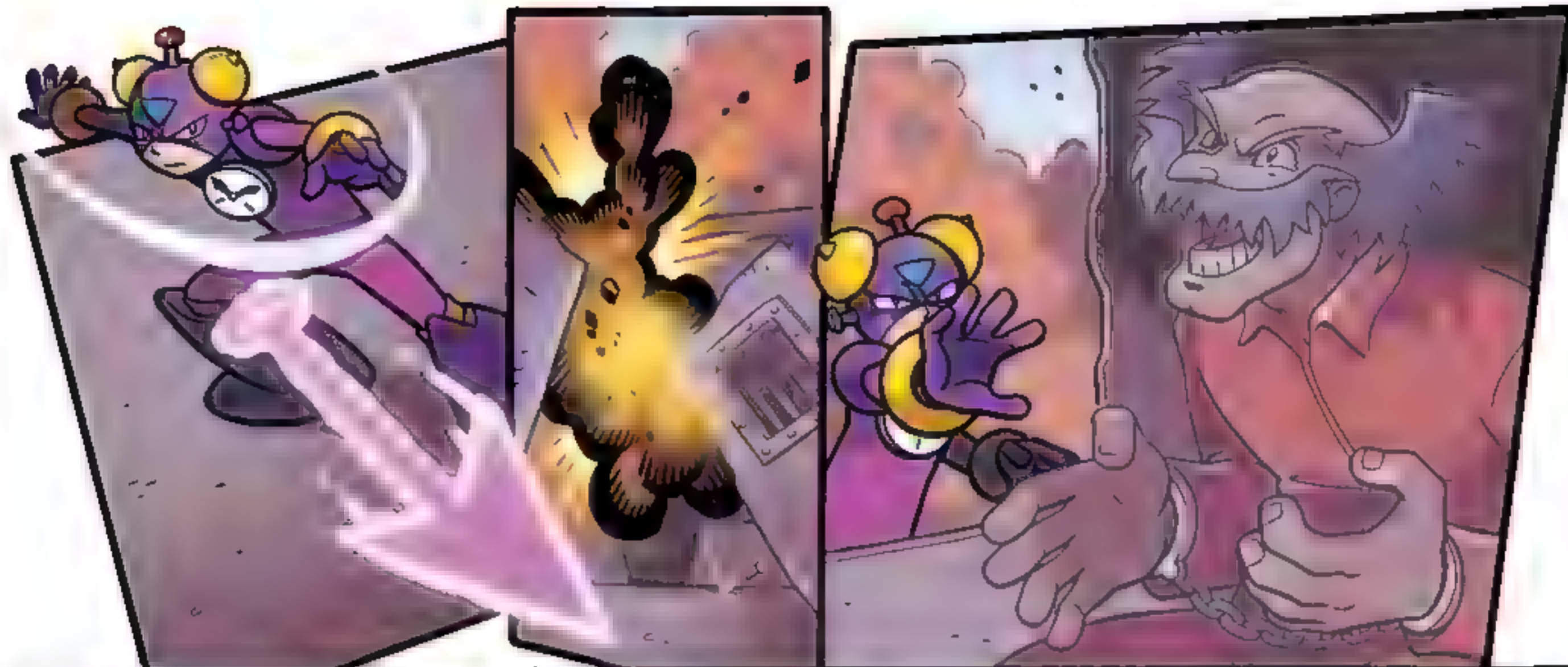
A SNIPER
JOE? HOW MANY
DID ALBERT
CONFISCATE?

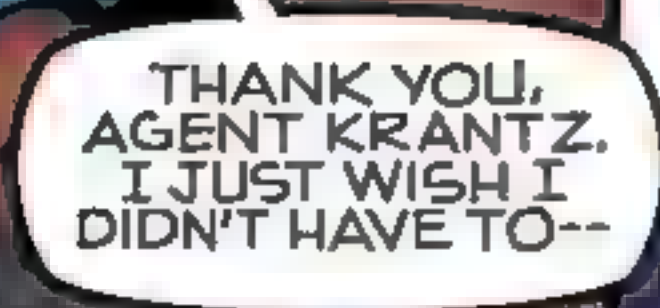
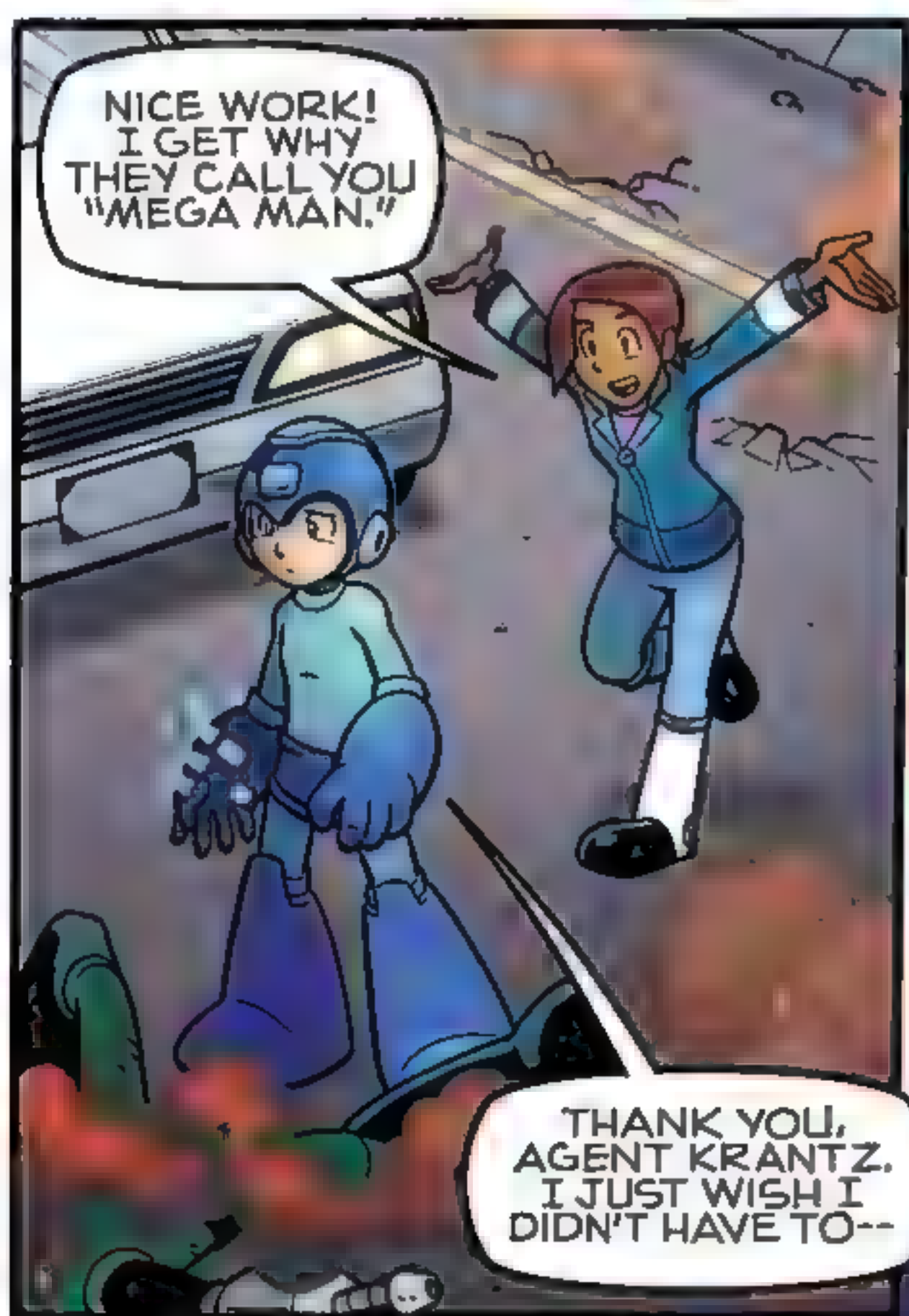
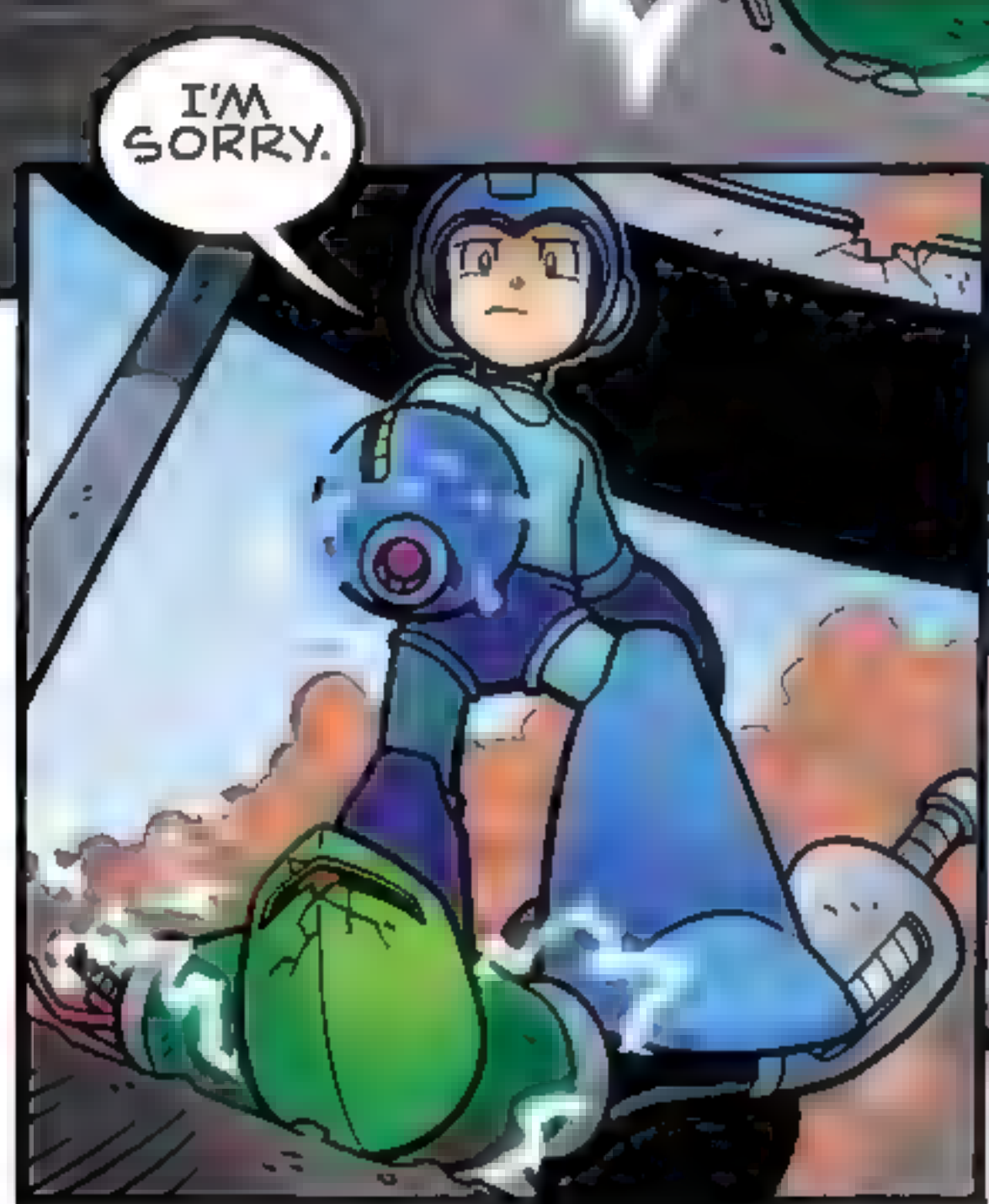
DON'T
WORRY!
I'LL
HANDLE
IT!

HEY!
PICK ON
SOMEONE
YOUR OWN
FIRE-
POWER-
SIZE!











MEANWHILE, AT
LIGHT LABS...

...AND THEY
CAN *HAVE* THEIR
STUPID, DIRTY PIT.
I'D RATHER STAY
IN THE LAB,
ANYWAY.

THAT'S
WHERE *REAL*
SCIENCE AND
ROBOTICS
GET DONE!
AND WHEN
ROCK GETS
HOME, I'LL
GIVE HIM A
PIECE OF MY--

SQUEAK

WHA...
OIL? DID
I RUPTURE
A JOINT?

SORRY
ABOUT THAT,
CUTIE. IT'S
KINDA MY
CALLING
CARD.

D-DO
I KNOW
Y-YOU?



AW, BIG
DADDY LIGHT
NEVER SHOWED
YOU MY FILE? NO
MATTER, SWEET
THING.

YOU
CAN JUST
COME ALONG
QUIETLY, OR I
CAN TAKE YOU
TO DR. WILY
IN *PIECES*.

DOCTOR WILY IS ON THE LOOSE!
MEGA MAN HAS BEEN
FRAMED! TWO NEW *ROBOT*
MASTERS ARE OUT CAUSING
TROUBLE!
THE ADVENTURE GETS
MORE HEATED
NEXT TIME!

MEGA-MAIL

PRESENTS

MASTER WORKS

YOUR MEGA MAN FAN ART

*ART WILL NOT BE RETURNED. SPACE LIMITATIONS MAY REQUIRE SOME PRINTED ART TO BE EDITED. ALL YOUR LETTERS AND FAN ART ARE APPRECIATED!



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Jean-Luc B.
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